

*maculella* Staint. The area colonised by this species is a damp wall of several square yards containing moss and lichen, and on which there were numerous meandering larval tubes. I scraped away a patch of lichen, gathered some larvae, and took them home, hoping to breed out a few moths.

I have since been surprised and dismayed by the number of parasites that have emerged. The final count was one moth, and fifteen parasites. This amazed me, as the amount of lichen I took home covered a space of about six inches by six inches. There must have been many more larvae embedded in the lichen. I have only once encountered but one parasite of *I. argentimaculella*, and that from a larva taken at Folkestone some years ago. Two weeks later I visited the wall again and found one solitary moth.

The evidence on the wall seemed to suggest the colony to be quite vigorous, but it looks as if there might have been a population crash; and next year may see very few moths at all, if the small patch of lichen I took home is any indication. — E. S. BRADFORD, 6 Maple Court, Drayton Road, Borehamwood, Herts.

A BILATERAL GYNANDROMORPH OF SCOTOPTERYX CHENOPODIATA (L.) (SHADED BROAD-BAR) IN SUSSEX. — On the 29th July, 1977, I caught a halved gynandromorph of *S. chenopodiata* on the downs near Seaford, the left side being wholly male and the right side wholly female. The specimen is in good condition. My attention was drawn to the gynandromorph as it fluttered to rest in the grass beside me and closed its wings, showing a colour contrast between the two sides. — R. M. CRASKE, 29 Salisbury Road, Hove, East Sussex.

AGONUM GRACILIPES DUFT. (COL.: CARABIDAE) IN SUSSEX, AND ITS DELETION FROM THE IRISH LIST. — My friend Mr. P. J. Hodge (who already has to his credit the addition of *Magdalis memnonia* Gyll. to our list, and other highly notable captures) took and correctly identified a specimen, which I have seen, of the above ground-beetle at m.v. light at Ringmer, near Eastbourne, 8.vii.75. *A. gracilipes*, one of our two very rare species of *Agonum*, has its headquarters on the Suffolk coast about Lowestoft, where it has been taken singly, often at longish intervals, from 1831 to the first decade or so of this century and possibly later; and might probably still be found there occasionally if worked for. It has occurred also on the Norfolk coast at Yarmouth, and perhaps on that of Yorkshire at Hornsea (cf. Fowler, 1887, *Col. Brit. Isl.*, 1: 91; Fowler & Donisthorpe, 1913, *ibid.*, 6: 207). Moore (*v. inf.*) marks it also for Cambs., but I feel that this should be queried, and his indication for Yorks. certainly should be. Claude Morley (1898, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 34: 221-3) gave a history of the species in Britain up to that date. Its occurrence for the first time on or near the south coast is interesting, particularly if it results from, or heralds, an extension of the very restricted British range of this *Agonum*; but, of course, the beetle might equally have been a casual immigrant or wanderer.

Morley (*l.c.*: 222) drew attention to an Irish record of *A. gracilipes* (Ardara, Co. Donegal), which he was inclined to doubt—with reason, since it was later withdrawn as having been erroneously based on a specimen of *A. muelleri* Hbst. (Johnson & Halbert, 1902, *A List of the Beetles of Ireland*: 579). From what is said there it appears there was also a record for Armagh by Johnson, which I cannot trace, but the point is now of no consequence. What is important is to delete the indication of *A. gracilipes* as Irish in Moore, 1957, *Ent. Gaz.*, 8 (3): 179 (species 228), this being the definitive work on British Carabid distribution and widely used. For this mistake I fear I was—in all innocence!—partly responsible, since in earlier correspondence with Dr. Moore I had pointed out to him the existence of the Irish record; remarking on its interest *if genuine*, but counselling due caution in accepting it. Unfortunately at that time neither of us was aware that a correction had been published! — A. A. ALLEN.

INSECT FAUNA OF BUDDLEIA DAVIDII. — Mr. Antram's record (*Ent. Record*, September 1977) of the larvae of *Cucullia verbasci* L. feeding on *Buddleia davidii* prompts me to report that in July 1977 I too found the larvae of this moth on *Buddleia* in my garden at Leicester.

In a recent article (*Country Life*, 1st September, 1977) I outlined the history of *Buddleia davidii* in Britain. The bush was introduced from China about 80 years ago and, as every entomologist knows, its flowers are extremely attractive to butterflies, moths, bees, hoverflies, and many other nectar-feeding insects. *Buddleia* belongs to a family of plants unrepresented in the native British flora and we would therefore not expect its leaves to be palatable to many species of moth larvae. But records are beginning to accumulate suggesting that several species have switched to it. In addition to *C. verbasci*, I have found larvae of the following species feeding on the leaves: *Melanchnra persicariae* (L.), *Orthosia stabilis* (Denis & Schiffermüller), *Phlogophora meticulosa* (L.), *Polymixis flavicincta* (Denis & Schiffermüller), and *Odonoptera bidentata* (Clerck).

In collaboration with colleagues at Oxford, I have this year initiated a small research project aimed at assessing the importance of *Buddleia* to the British insect fauna. I would thus be glad to receive all records of insects (other than nectar-feeders) found eating the leaves, flowers, stems, or seeds of *Buddleia davidii*. — D. F. OWEN, 66 Scraftoft Lane, Leicester, LE5 1HU.

THE DEATH'S HEAD HAWKMOTH (*ACHERONTIA ATROPOS* L.): A SWEET ADVENTURE? — Recently, September 1977, I had occasion to have my generator and m.v. equipment tested at a firm in Guildford which I have patronised for this purpose for some time. The foreman who knows my interests, mentioned that a member of their staff had a huge moth come into their house at nearby Normandy. The young lady, Mrs. Carol Chitty, was duly summoned and told me how in the